

19TH DISTRICT  
JEANETTE F. REIBMAN  
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## Senate of Pennsylvania

April 21, 1976

Mr. Robert Steelman  
1580 Alta Drive, Apt. C-II  
Whitehall, Pa. 18052

Dear Mr. Steelman:

[ No rights are absolute. As former Justice Holmes said, the right to free speech does not include the right to yell "fire" in a crowded theater. ]

I have opposed discrimination on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, and sexual preference, among others, and will continue to do so. They are not totally similar, however. [ One cannot impose one's race, color, or sex on another person. One can seek to impose one's creed or sexual preference on another. That is an important difference, one too little recognized in discussions of discrimination. ]

This difference is part of the reason I voted for Senate Bill 743, which passed the Senate last November by a vote of 44-2. [ It would prohibit homosexuals from employment in certain circumstances. ] Not every one views this bill the same way, although, as the vote indicated, there was little difference of opinion in the Senate.

[ I oppose anyone convicted of a sex crime from being in certain jobs. I also oppose such employment where sexual preference can present a potential problem, even in the absence of a criminal record. We do not, for example, place heterosexual males as matrons in women's prisons for just this reason. This in no way is regarded as a reflection on their character or integrity, which may be excellent. It simply is not a good idea. ]

In short, I would support a proposal in Congress to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference where legal rights are affected.

Sincerely yours,

*Jeanette F. Reibman*  
JEANETTE F. REIBMAN  
State Senator

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